

W. L. Garrison
Sept. 1. 54

Boston, Sept. 1, 1854.

My dear Mr. May:

134 Truly, you are the watchman upon the walls of our Anti-Slavery Zion; while we, in this region, are without vision, and losing our memory. Had it not been for your quickening letter, just received, I am pretty sure the fact would have been overlooked by us all, that, at New York, last May, we agreed to hold a special meeting of the Parent Society in Syracuse, on the 29th and 30th of Sept. It is singular that none of us here should have remembered that vote. I am not able to consult our Committee, in regard to the matter; for Phillips is in Milton, Quincy at the West, A. W. Weston at Weymouth, Lowell at Cambridge - &c. &c. But as there is no time to be lost, I herewith send you a bill to be inserted in the Syracuse Daily Chronicle, (and also in the Journal, if you think proper,) some half a dozen ^{times,} perhaps, prior to the meeting - the bill for which shall be promptly liquidated. I have already sent the bill to the Anti-Slavery Standard, the Bugle, and Frederick Douglass's Paper, and have requested Oliver Johnson to get it inserted in the Tribune.

Of course, it is my intention to be at the meeting. I trust Phillips and Lucy Stone will be there also. I have not yet seen Theodore Parker, but almost despair of securing his attendance, as he has been absent several weeks from the city, and next Sunday commences his regular services at the Music Hall. Be assured, I shall do my best to persuade him to comply with our earnest wishes, and also with your proposal to have him preach for you on the ensuing Sunday. I am anxious for an uncommonly good meeting.

As for our place of meeting, it must be left to your own good judgment in the premises. I have conferred with our friend Francis Jackson, and he says we must leave every thing in your hands (in which I am agreed) as to the hall, price of admission, placards, anti-slavery hymns, &c. We incline to the opinion that, with tickets, the Town Hall will be sufficiently commodious for our day meetings - perhaps for the evening also. If not for the latter, then let either the Corinthian or Dr. Wieting's Hall be secured for that purpose. I much prefer to have a crowded meeting in a hall of moderate dimensions, than a thin one in a hall of the first class - the magnetic and popular effect is better. I fear there will be very few delegates from the West, in consequence of the Ohio anniversary (just held at Salem) being so near to our contemplated gathering; and I presume there will not be more than half a dozen from this section of the country; so that we shall have to rely mainly, for our audience, upon Syracuse in special, and Central and Western New York in general. You kindly urge me to bring Helen with me, and much would it gratify me to do so, and glad would she be to see you all again, face to face; but the travelling expenses are too great to be added to those we are daily compelled to look in the face.

As for a reporter, if we have any, it will be Mr. Yerrinton; but I think our Committee will hardly feel willing to incur so much expense. We will have a meeting soon about it.

I trust our friend Gerrit Smith will be res, on the occasion. I am glad, however, that he has resigned his seat in Congress, and greatly lament the effect of his strange speech about the annexation of Cuba to our country, slavery and all.

You say nothing about the celebration of the "Jerry Rescue." The 1st Oct. is Sunday - do you intend to pass over the anniversary, or to observe ^{it} on the 1st, or on the 2d? It ought to kept, either on Sunday or Monday - though neither Parker nor Phillips could be detained long enough for the latter day. Love to your dear wife and family.

Yours, affectionately,
Wm. Lloyd Garrison.